

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 and 37-47 are presently active, Claims 26-36 are canceled without prejudice, Claims 1-25 are amended, and Claims 37-47 are added by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2-4, 9-12, 17-24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Knapp et al. (U.S. Patent 6,861,942) in view of Matsuura et al. (U.S. Patent 6,808,277); and Claims 5-8, 13-16 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Knapp et al. in view of Matsuura et al., and further in view of Mitarai (U.S. Patent 6,078,294)

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-25, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding grounds for rejection because, in Applicants' view, independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the applied references as discussed below.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "a mirror base to be attached on a side of an automobile ...," "a mirror housing suspended underneath said mirror base ..." and "an antenna unit installed *in said mirror base*." By providing the antenna unit in the mirror base and suspending the mirror housing underneath the mirror base, for example, the mirror housing does not impede against the radio wave transmission and receiving of the antenna, and no obstruction of transmission and receiving of the radio wave is generated (Specification at page 25, lines 12-15).

The outstanding Office Action acknowledges that Knapp et al. does not disclose that the mirror comprises a mirror base and a mirror housing suspended underneath the mirror base. Instead, the outstanding Office Action relies on Matsuura et al. to remedy the deficiencies, indicating that Matsuura et al. discloses a mirror (with an antenna) connected to

the automobile with a support (10 or 44 in the figures) and mirror housing (16 or 48 in the figures). However, Matsuura et al. does not teach or suggest that an antenna is installed in the support (10 or 44). Rather, the support (10 or 44) is merely “a stay” (Matsuura et al. at col. 3, line 10, and col. 4, lines 2-5), an antenna cannot be installed in the support (10 or 44). In addition, although Knapp at al. describes that the antennas 44 and 46 can comprise a wire antenna provided within the mirror housing (Knapp at al. at col. 6, lines 16-19), Knapp at al. fails to teach or suggest that the antenna is installed in the mirror base as recited in Claim 1.

Thus, Knapp at al. and Matsuura et al. fail to teach or suggest “a mirror base to be attached on a side of an automobile ...,” “a mirror housing suspended underneath said mirror base ...” and “an antenna unit installed in said mirror base,” as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the applied references. Therefore, Claim 1 and the pending claims are believed to be allowable.

Finally, Applicants respectfully note that the applied references fail to teach or suggest “a first connector connected to said antenna unit and ***configured to be connected to a second connector*** connected to an on-vehicle device in said automobile, said first connector ***placed in said mirror base***,” as recited in Claims 3 and 4, and “a first connector connected to said antenna unit, ***configured to be connected to a second connector*** connected to an on-vehicle device in said automobile, and ***configured to be placed in a part adjacent to said mirror base in said automobile***,” as recited in Claims 37 and 38.

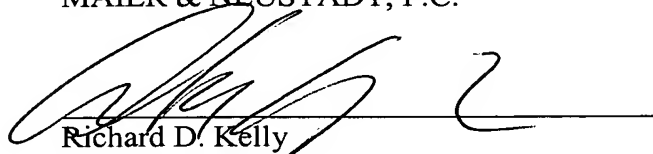
In this regard, the outstanding Office Action states that Knapp at al. discloses in Figs. 8-10A electrical connectors between the antenna and the rest of the automobile (Office Action at page 5, lines 21-22). However, what Knapp at al. describes is merely to electrically connect the antenna with a control system of the automobile. Knapp at al. does not disclose a first connector, which is configured to be connected to a second connector connected to an

on-vehicle device in the automobile, is placed in the mirror base or in a part adjacent to the mirror base in the automobile.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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